

SEVIS-Smart ...a SEVP Publication

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SEVIS: A SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE M. STELLA JARINA - DIRECTOR OF STUDENT OPERATIONS

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System offers an incredible amount of benefits to our school and program sponsors, and our country in general.

It has always been known that SEVIS would forever change the dynamics of international education, and those changes have begun. With this new direction and thrust into the future, we can all be proud of the input from the many partners along the way.

The INS, The Department of

State's Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, and the educational and cultural exchange communities throughout our nation have worked together, not necessarily seeing eye-to-eye, but with a common goal in mind—to develop a system and process by which the flow of international education into the United States would be as smooth as possible.

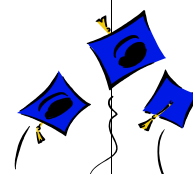
We understand there was slight reluctance from some schools to venture into this

new SEVIS world, however those who have crossed that threshold of Internet knowledge have already begun to access the benefits of such technology.

We are excited about our SEVIS journey into 2003, and watching the “what ifs” being banished forever when the system is completely alive, and we are forever connected as one in SEVIS.

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FULL CERTIFICATION RULE

The rule requiring Certification of all Service Approved Schools for Enrollment in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System was published on September 25, 2002.



Many schools, however, began applying for certification

under the preliminary rule published in July.

This new rule continues the implementation process by which schools obtain access to SEVIS.

Those colleges that were not enrolled in SEVIS by September 25, will now have to pay a certification fee before being granted access to the system.

As of November 14, there

were 1351 institutions that have already been approved and granted access to SEVIS.

Additional information on the Full Certification rule can be found on page two of this publication .



Special points of interest:

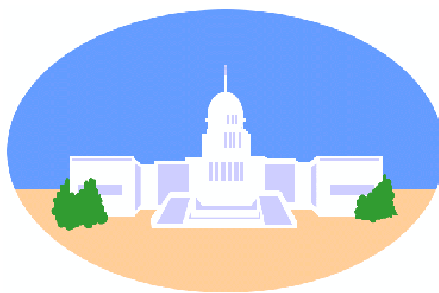
Full Certification Rule
Part-time Commuters
Certificate of Eligibility for
Exchange Visitors

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

The INS has published multiple regulations to implement SEVIS and strengthen the foreign student process. The INS issued a proposed rule on May 16, 2002 to implement SEVIS and to address foreign student processes and procedures. The INS completed its review of the comments and a final rule has been drafted and is within the clearance process.

On July 1, 2002 the INS published an interim rule for voluntary preliminary enrollment in SEVIS by schools that have been certified by the INS at least for the last three years and are recognized as accredited or Title IV by the Department of Education.

As a continuation of the SEVIS implementation plan, the INS published on September 25, 2002, an interim rule requiring full certification and on-site visits for educational institutions. All



schools must now submit an electronic Form I-17 petition via SEVIS for adjudication. In order to be reviewed by the INS and be granted access to SEVIS prior to the mandatory compliance date, schools were strongly encouraged to submit an electronic Form I-17 using SEVIS no later than November 15, 2002 (75 days prior to the expected compliance deadline of January 30, 2003.) The INS cannot guarantee timely final action on any Form I-17 petition not filed at least 75 days

prior to the SEVIS mandatory compliance deadline of January 30, 2003.

As the INS will be requiring on-site reviews prior to the initial approval of Form I-17, a new fee is necessary to support the review. The new fee includes the current internal Service cost, \$230, for the review of the Form I-17, as well as the cost of the on-site review, \$350, for a total of \$580. In accordance with the publication of the full certification rule, on September 25, 2002 the INS and SEVIS activated an online fee payment mechanism via Pay.gov.



New Rule for Part-time Commuter Students

On August 7, 2002 the Immigration and Naturalization Service published an interim rule allowing Mexican and Canadian commuter students to study on a part-time basis at schools located within 75 miles of the United States border. The rule clarifies that Mexican or Canadian nationals who reside outside the United States and regularly commute across a land border to study may do so on a part-time basis within the F-1 or M-1 nonimmigrant visa category. These changes will facilitate and legitimize certain part-time study in border communities while ensuring that all applicable requirements and safeguards are met.

Also, on November 2, 2002, legislation was enacted creating the new F-3 and M-3 visa categories for part time academic and vocational students, respectively. The F-3 and M-3 visa can be issued by the Department of State without need for INS regulations. However, INS will publish a regula-

tion recognizing the new classification and clarifying the processes for the new F-3 and M-3 visas. As the legislation bears little difference to the regulation, the rules will likely be similar.

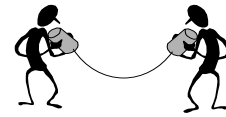
To qualify under the current regulation, part time students must attend an INS-approved school located no more than 75 miles from the border, and obtain the appropriate Form I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, and obtaining the appropriate visa, unless exempt. By January, the INS will have in place an on-line reporting system known as the Student And Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). Schools will be required to report on foreign students, including these part-time commuters through SEVIS.

The immigration laws prohibit the admission, as visitors, of aliens seeking to attend school part-time as commuters. However, it has become commonplace for these students to enter as visitors

on a daily basis to attend school. Since September 11, the INS has closely scrutinized the purpose of entry of these Mexican and Canadian visitors. Tighter enforcement of our laws has led to concerns that part-time commuter students may no longer pursue their studies on the U.S. side of the border. This rule will ensure that those students may continue their education in the U. S. The rule will also benefit commuter students who wish to commence part-time study at a border school once they have obtained the necessary documentation.

Prior to publication of the regulation and enactment of the statute, INS was paroling border students into the United States to participate in part-time study. This process will continue for students who were covered by the parole policy until December 31, 2002.

SEVIS TECH TALK



The Internet-based system we have all come to know as SEVIS is a Java-based, object oriented design that uses a classic presentation/business layer approach. The object-oriented method facilitates subsequent modification of the over 300 screens in the presentation layer.

The system provides a way to track and monitor information on non-immigrant students (F and M visas) Exchange visitors (J visa), and their dependents (F-2, M-2, and J-2 visas).

Schools and program sponsors will be able to transmit information via the internet throughout the student

or exchange visitor's stay in the United States.

XML Schemas can be found on the website and should be quite helpful for those still learning their way around XML. In addition, a new batch testing lessons learned document will be available.

The SEVIS web page also features an updated RTI Temp users manual. A manual for the DSO and RO user is also posted.

Currently, SEVIS is providing real-time school petition (I-17) and student eligibility (I-20) processing, with exchange visitor eligibility (DS-

2019) processing to follow shortly.

As of October 1, 2002 the batch transfer process has been added so that schools can transmit XML formatted files into SEVIS. Data exchanges with INS Service Centers and POE/Datashare are planned to begin before January, 2003.



HOW TO GAIN ACCESS TO SEVIS

SEVIS requires the use of Microsoft Internet Explorer Version 5.0 or higher or Netscape Version 4.7 or higher, and Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or higher. You must have a user ID and password to access the system. Following are instructions on obtaining a temporary user ID and creating a SEVIS password.

To obtain a Temporary User ID—

You can access SEVIS via the Internet at <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/sevis>. The SEVIS Log in Page includes a link that is used to obtain a temporary user ID and password. 1.) Click on the "Register for New Account" link. The system displays

the user registration screen, as shown in Exhibit 3, SEVIS—User Registration Screen. This link is used only to obtain a temporary user ID so that you can complete and submit a Form I-17 or DS3036. 2.) At a minimum, complete all fields preceded by a red asterisk (*). 3.) Click the submit button. The system will display a message indicating that your temporary user ID will be sent to you in an e-mail message. You will receive a second e-mail message that includes specific instructions on how to access SEVIS the first time.

To Create a SEVIS Password—

After receiving your temporary user ID, you will receive a secure link to SEVIS. Use this link to create your password. 1.) After clicking the link you will see a Set Password screen. 2.) Enter your temporary user ID in the user field. 3.) Enter your password in the password field. 4.) Enter your password in the Confirm Password field. 5.) Click the Set Password button. The system will indicate that you have been successful. 6.) Click the OK button and the system will display the SEVIS login screen. With your new password, you may access SEVIS through the website to perform all SEVIS-related tasks. *Congratulations!*

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR

The Department of State (DOS) has designated the Form DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status, as the official form to be used in the administration of the Exchange Visitor Program. The Form DS-2019 has replaced the Form IAP-66.

However, any Forms IAP-66 issued and dated by the program sponsor prior to August 31, 2002 will be accepted at the

ports-of-entry and consulates abroad even if the exchange visitor travels after



the August 31 date.

The DS-2019 is practically identical to the Form IAP-66, with a few minor changes. The "white" and "yellow" copies of the four-part form have been reversed. The "yellow" copy is now the first of the four copies. The Sponsor will continue to retain the fourth "green" copy prior to issuance.

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Immigration Services Division
SEVP/SEVIS Communication Coordinator
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Washington, DC 20536



Phone: 202/514-3228
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Be sure to visit our site <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/services/tempbenefits/SEVP.htm>

Thought for the Month: The Mission Is Not Impossible

Where Are We Now?... Where Are We Going?

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System is in motion, as we quicken our pace toward full implementation on January 1, 2003. As we continue along this path, it is literally all hands on deck.

In addition to the continual system design and maintenance process, we are writing, and when necessary rewriting regulation that will lead to better service of the system and you, the users.

There have been several sessions of testimony before Congress, and we remain confident in our mission that the system will be fully implemented by January 1, 2003.

We at the Immigration and Naturalization Service are aware that with any new system, there will be a number of questions and concerns, and we have made a commitment to provide as many resources as possible to guide

you through the learning and understanding of SEVIS.

Knowledgeable SEVIS Team members are attending various educational meetings around the country, on both the national and regional levels. It is at these conferences that you will hear the most up-to-date information on SEVIS, and be able to ask the questions that are of utmost concern to you, and your institution.

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

There are several ways to access information about the SEVIS system. You may go directly to the SEVIS page from the INS web site where you will find in-depth information on the many resources available on students and exchange visitors. This includes frequently asked questions, as well as previous issues of our publication, SEVIS-Smart.

You will also find information on the

Real-time Interactive and Batch-file Transfer processes. The website also lists the latest notices, regulations and rules governing SEVIS.

For questions about the system, our SEVIS Help Desk is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time at 1-800-892-4829. The Help Desk can generally resolve your questions immediately. Policy questions may take 24 to 48 hours. You may also reach us

by e-mail at HQADN-SEVP@usdoj.gov. As with any new system there are bound to be a number of ongoing questions and concerns, and we do intend to make ourselves fully available.

We do hope that you are able to locate the information you seek in regard to SEVIS either on the website, by phone or e-mail. We look forward to hearing from you, and working with you in the years ahead.

SEVIS EVENTS AND TIME LINE

2002
July 1—
SEVIS Real-Time Interactive began
Preliminary Enrollment opened
September 23—
SEVIS batch testing
September 25—
SEVIS Certification rule published

October 1—
INS began on-campus site reviews
SEVIS batch available

October/November
SEVIS training session released on DVD

November/December
SEVIS vocational & academic foreign student visa rule published
2003
**January 1—
SEVIS full implementation**
**January 30—
SEVIS mandatory compliance date**